

Connecticut Chapter

127 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473
Tel: 203-234-2022 Fax: 234-1386
✉ ctalf@liverfoundation.org
www.ctalf.org
National HelpLine 800-GO-LIVER (800-465-4837)



Your Liver. Your Life.

PRESIDENT

Yolanda Belmont, LCSW

VICE PRESIDENT

John Polio, MD

SECRETARY

Debera Palmeri, RN-CCTC

TREASURER

Robert Balchunas, CPA

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Alleman, APRN
Lori Blackman
Agnieszka Buller
Susan Griffin
David Hull, MD, FACS
Rodney LeBlanc
Andrea E. Lombard, RN, BSN, MPH
Juan Carlos Lopez-Talavera, MD, PhD
Pranod Mistry, MD, PhD, FRCP
Catherine P. Petrucciolo
Andre Sofair, MD

LEGAL ADVISOR

Stuart A. Margolis

MEDICAL ADVISORY

CHAIRMAN
Pranod Mistry, MD, PhD, FRCP

VICE CHAIRMAN

David Hull, MD, FACS

MEDICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

George Abdelsayed, MD, FACP, SACC
Andrew Bedford, MD
James Boyer, MD
Myron Brand, MD
Matthew Brown, MD
Cary Caldwell, MD
Dean Chang, MD
James Garcia, MD
David Cronin, MD
Karan Emerick, MD
Sukru Emre, MD, FAC
Joseph Fiorito, MD
Gerald Franklin, MD
Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD
Joel Garsten, MD
Martin Hoffman, DO
Jonathan Israel, MD
Suzanne Lagarde, MD
Robert Leventhal, MD
Joseph Lim, MD
Michael Nathanson, MD
John Polio, MD
David Sack, MD
Michael Schilsky, MD
Harold Schwartz, MD
Mario Strazzabosco, MD, PhD
You Sung Sang, MD
Tamar Teddei, MD
Renuka Umashanker, MD
Krystn Wagner, MD
George Wu, MD

ASSOCIATE MEDICAL

ADVISOR CHAIRMAN
Kim Alleman, APRN

HONORARY BOARD

MEMBER
Bonnie Goldberg
Barry J. Vine
Joyce Willig

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JoAnn Thompson

February 29, 2008

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

Having been fortunate enough to have received a life-saving liver transplant, I now am able to look back and know how important it is for living donor transplantation.

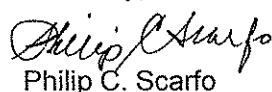
My journey began in 1990 when I was diagnosed with Primary Biliary Cirrhosis. Cirrhosis truly has a stigma that I and thousands of others continue to fight everyday. Because the wait for a transplant was so long I had to endure dozens of transfusions, thousands of blood sticks, hundreds of catheters drawing out gallons of fluid before I was put on the transplant list. It would be eight long years before I received a transplant.

As I look back now, I truly realize how different it would have been had I had the option of a living donor. The time lost from work, the important occasions I missed like my middle daughter's graduation, the hundreds of thousands of dollars for hospital stays, medication and treatments and most of all the struggle from day to day waiting for that call...if even a small part of this could have been eliminated!

We must give those waiting for transplants not only the opportunity to receive an organ from a living donor but also the hope that they will not have to die waiting. We especially must not punish those who would so generously give life to someone else. We must then allow the financial support they need in the way of a tax deduction to assist them in their recovery, some of the costs being travel, lodging or lost wages. Living Donation could be the means to an end for the 726 citizens of the State of Connecticut who are waiting for a life saving organ transplant. That number continues to grow daily!

In conclusion, I ask for your support of Bill # 5422 not only as a transplant recipient but as a representative and staff member of the American Liver Foundation.

Sincerely,


Philip C. Scarfo